

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CGEN, LE, US

SUBJECT: MESSAGE FOR MR. AND MRS. MANSOUR KFOURI
ABOUT DEATH OF THEIR SON, JOSEPH KFOURI

1. ON BEHALF OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE SCHRONTZ,
PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM MR. THOMAS BROWN
OF SEATTLE TO MR. AND MRS. MANSOUR KFOURI. BECAUSE OF
DISORDERLY CONDITIONS IN LEBANON, BROWN'S ATTEMPTS TO
SEND THIS MESSAGE THROUGH OTHER CHANNELS HAVE FAILED.

2. THE KFOURIS LIVE IN FALOUGHA BUT KFOURIS MIGHT BE
REACHED THROUGH BEIRUT 570-582, EXT. 228.

3. BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR MR. AND MRS. MANSOUR G. KFOURI, FALOUGHA, LEBANON

THIS IS THE STORY ABOUT JOSEPH. AS WE WROTE TO YOU, JOE
LEFT SEATTLE ABOUT AUGUST 20, 1975 TO LOOK FOR A JOB IN
CALIFORNIA AND NEVADA. HE SAID THAT IF HE DID NOT FIND A
JOB HE WOULD RETURN TO LEBANON FOR A VISIT. WHEN WE DID
NOT HEAR FROM HIM AFTER AUGUST 20, 1975 WE THOUGHT HE WAS
IN LEBANON AND COULD NOT WRITE TO US BECAUSE OF THE FIGHT-
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ING THERE.

WHEN YOUR LETTER TO JOSEPH ARRIVED IN FEBRUARY 1976 WE BEGAN TO LOOK FOR HIM IN THE UNITED STATES. WE RECEIVED YOUR TELEPHONE CALL ONE WEEK LATER.

ON MARCH 29, 1976, OUR POLICE TOLD US THEY HAD FOUND JOE. IT IS MY VERY SAD DUTY TO TELL YOU THAT JOSEPH WAS ROBBED AND KILLED IN THE DESERT NEAR THE HIGHWAY CLOSE TO THE SMALL TOWN OF MINA, NEVADA BY PERSONS UNKNOWN ABOUT AUGUST 26, 1975. APPARENTLY IT WAS PERSONS TO WHOM HE WAS GIVING A RIDE, OR WHO HAD STOPPED HIM ON THE ROAD AFTER HE HAD VISITED LEAR AIRCRAFT COMPANY IN RENO, NEVADA THE DAY BEFORE.

I HAVE PERSONALLY SEEN THE COLORED POLICE PHOTOGRAPHS OF JOE AND HIS POSSESSIONS AND I AM POSITIVE THAT THEY WERE OF HIM. HIS RING WITH THE INITIALS J.M.K. AND THE ABBREVIATION LEB., AND THE OVAL CRUCIFIX WITH RED AND BLUE STONES, PLUS HIS TWO GOLD WRIST BRACELETS AND WATCH WERE AMONG HIS POSSESSIONS. BUT THERE WAS NO WALLET OR OTHER PAPERS AND HIS CAR WAS TAKEN. WITHOUT ANY IDENTIFICATION THE AUTHORITIES IN NEVADA WHO FOUND HIM DID NOT KNOW WHO HE WAS, OR WHO TO CALL UNTIL OUR POLICE SENT PICTURES OF JOE TO THEM AND THEY RECOGNIZED HIM.

WE GRIEVE WITH YOU AT THIS TIME. JOE WAS SO BRIGHT, FRIENDLY AND FULL OF PROMISE. WE ALSO WERE PROUD OF HIM AND LOVED HIM. WE WILL ALWAYS CHERISH HIS LOVING LETTER TO US WRITTEN ON MY BIRTHDAY LAST MARCH AND ADDRESSED TO "DEAR ADOPTED DAD" AS HE ALWAYS CALLED ME. IT WILL ALWAYS PAIN US TO KNOW THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS MORE DANGEROUS FOR JOE THAN THE FIGHTING IN HIS OWN COUNTRY. MANY PEOPLE LOVED HIM HERE, AND HE US. ALL OF OUR FRIENDS HERE AND HIS ALSO ARE SO SHOCKED AND UNBELIEVING.

YOU WILL NOW WANT TO DECIDE WHAT TO DO WITH JOE. HE IS IN A FUNERAL HOME IN HAWTHORNE, NEVADA WHERE THEY WILL WAIT FOR YOUR INSTRUCTIONS. UNFORTUNATELY, I DO NOT SPEAK LEBANESE SO YOU MAY WISH TO TALK DIRECTLY TO HIS FRIENDS IN WICHITA WHO SPEAK LEBANESE, ABOUT MORE OF THE DETAILS
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AND TO GIVE THEM INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT JOE. I HAVE TOLD THEM ALL OF THE DETAILS. THEIR DAUGHTER GOES TO OUR SAME CHURCH HERE IN SEATTLE, AND WE INTRODUCED JOE TO HER, AND HE INTRODUCED JOE TO HER PARENTS IN WICHITA. THEIR NAME IS MR. AND MR. KENNETH KALLAIL. THEIR PHONE NUMBER IS (316) 943-9543, THEIR ADDRESS IS 2102 W. 17TH, WICHITA, KANSAS 67203. WHEN YOU DECIDE TO CALL THEM, HAVE THE OPERATOR TELL THEM AHEAD OF TIME. THEY CAN THEN GET THE

PRIEST WHERE JOE WENT TO CHURCH IN WICHITA AND WHO KNEW
JOE WELL TO ALSO TALK TO YOU THEN. THE PRIEST WAS BORN
IN LEBANON AND SPEAKS THE BEST LEBANESE.

WE WILL SEND YOU LONGER LETTERS LATER WITH MORE DETAILS
AS WE LEARN THEM, AND AS YOU MAY WANT TO KNOW.

WITH GREAT SADNESS AND LOVE,

CAROL JEANE AND TOM BROWN
11801 S.E. 49TH PLACE
BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON 98006
(206) 746-5587 END TEXT.

4. PLEASE ADVISE. KISSINGER

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